

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 ARA-14 EA-12
NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02
ICA-20 SP-02 SS-15 /126 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P: BRUSSELL:PCM
APPROVED BY AF/P RHOLLIDAY
-----090425 130647Z /16

R 130020Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 12, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SOMEWHAT INDIGNANT LAST NIGHT CLAIMING THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT EXACTLY BEING EVEN-HANDED IN DENOUNCING THE RAID INTO ANGOLA WHILE REFUSING TO DENOUNCE THE SWAPO RAIDS INTO NAMIBIA. HOW DOES THIS GOVERNMENT RESPOND TO THAT?

A. TWO THINGS. FIRST, WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE USE OF VIOLENCE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. WHEN IT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED, WE ARE QUITE WILLING TO, IN FACT, CONDEMN IT. WE HAVE, AS IN THE OCCASION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE HUERREROS SPOKEN EMPHATICALLY AGAINST THAT. THE PARTICULAR INSTANCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RAID, UNLIKE A NUMBER OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE, I MIGHT ADD, NOT ONLY IN SOUTH AFRICA OR SOUTHWEST AFRICA, NAMIBIA, IS ONE IN WHICH THERE IS UNIQUELY NO DOUBT ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT ON THE QUESTION OF VIOLENCE, WE ARE OPPOSED TO ITS USE BY ANY PARTY. BEYOND THAT, WE ARE, AS I HAVE SAID

BEFORE, GLAD THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSALS FOR TRANSITION IN NAMIBIA, PROPOSALS WHICH WE THINK MINIMIZE THE POSSI-

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BILITY OF VIOLENCE IN THE TRANSITION WHICH SOUTH AFRICA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WISHES TO HAVE TAKE PLACE AND WE TRUST THAT SWAPO WILL NOW FIND IT POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO THOSE SAME PROPOSALS, SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED AND SO THAT THE VIOLENCE CAN BE EITHER MINIMIZED OR ELIMINATED.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS COMPLAINT THE OTHER DAY?

A. I THINK THAT PIC BOTHA GAVE A FAIRLY STRONG RESPONSE IN A STATEMENT HE ISSUED DOWN THERE. I'M NOT AWARE OF A COMMUNICATION BEING HANDED TO US BY THE EMBASSY YET.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION?

A. I WOULD SAY IT OBFUSCATES WHAT WAS THE COMPLAINT, WHICH WAS THE INTRUSION OF THE PARTISAN POLITICS OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN THIS COUNTRY. THE RIGHT OF PIC BOTHA TO SAY HE DISAGREES WITH OUR POLICIES IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER, OR OURS TO SAY WE DISAGREE WITH THEIR POLICIES.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THE COMPLAINT WAS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE IT WAS COUCHED IN THE CONDITIONAL THAT IF THIS MAN HAD SAID WHAT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, THAT WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION. NOW, DO YOU CONSIDER IT AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION?

A. WE ARE AWAITING, OF COURSE, A REPLY FROM THEM AS TO WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE MAN SAID AND DID.

Q. THAT REPLY YOU HAVE NOT HAD?

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN THAT FORMAL REPLY.
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Q. DO WE MAKE SIMILAR PROTESIS WHEN PEOPLE LIKE AMBASADOR YOUNG GO TO SOUTH AFRICA AND MEET WITH DISSIDENTS, MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT INTERNAL POLICIES?

A. TO BEGIN WITH, IT'S HARDLY A COMPARISON. THERE IS NO POLITICAL PROCESS IN WHICH THOSE DISSIDENTS CAN TAKE PART IN SOUTH AFRICA. BUT BEYOND THAT, I WOULD JUST SIMPLY SAY THAT WE ARE ALWAYS IN THE PROCESS, AS I THINK YOU ARE ALL AWARE, OF HAVING VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS ADVISING US ON WHAT WE OUGHT TO DO, OF MEETING WITH THE OPPOSITION IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THE LIKE -- THAT'S ONE THING. I'M TALKING ABOUT, IN THE MIDDLE OF A CAMPAIGN, TO IN FACT ACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE GIVING AID AND COMFORT TO ONE CANDIDATE AGAINST ANOTHER.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY DENIED A VISA TO A RHODESIAN CITIZEN BY THE NAME OF STEN O'DONNELL WHO WANTED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY IN BOCA RATON, FLORIDA. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE TECHNICAL REASON FOR THIS WAS THAT HE DIDN'T PRESENT THE VALID INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENT, BUT I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A PROCEDURE THAT IS VERY FREQUENTLY FOLLOWED OF PROVIDING A WAIVER FOR THIS, AND I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT IT SEEMS MUCH MORE FREQUENT THAT THESE WAIVERS ARE GIVEN FOR BLACK RHODESIANS THAN FOR WHITE RHODESIANS. DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MR. O'DONNELL WOULD HAVE BEEN A DANGER TO THIS COUNTRY IF HE CAME TO THE ROTARY MEETING IN BOCA RATON, OR THAT THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSONANT WITH YOUR PROCLAIMED POLICY OF ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE
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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT? ARE WE IN
FACT FOLLOWING A DISCRIMINATORY POLICY?

A. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE122478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BRUSSELL:PCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780203-0483
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780561/aaaabzly.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1718969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2698457
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 12, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECE SSARY
TAGS: SOPN, US
To: BANJUL USNATO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1718969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014